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**Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-468**

Atlantic Coast Company Shipyard Papers
Inclusive dates 1918-1923

by
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April 2016

One Folder
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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Abstract

Atlantic Coast Company

Papers, 1918 - 1923

One folder

Boston company with a World War I shipyard at Boothbay Harbor (ME).

Small group of documents, most listing some of the materials, rig, and outfit of vessels built and owned by the company and other related companies.

Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.

MS-468; Accession # 2006.087.01

Finding aid in repository; folder and item level control.

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)

Crowell & Thurlow

East Coast Ship Company

Frances L. Taussig (Four mast schooner)

Jennie Flood Kreger (Five mast schooner)

Josephine A. McQuesten (Four mast schooner)

Added entries—places

Boothbay Harbor (ME)

Boston

Added entries—key terms

Masts and rigging

Schooners

Ships—Maintenance and repair

Shipyards

Acquisition

These papers of the Atlantic Coast Company were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in November and December 2006.

Provenance

Capt. Parker was an extremely knowledgeable collector and an expert on North American schooners. He picked up many parts of his collection of maritime papers by purchase from dealers, auctions, or estate sales, and by gifts from relatives of maritime figures. We have found no documentation of how he acquired this particular group of manuscripts. A note in the folder indicates he owned this lot when he was still in the Coast Guard, and had attained the rank of Captain. He had evidently loaned this folder at one time to Charles S. Morgan, who at one time was on the Board of Trustees of Maine Maritime Museum, and held the post of Chair. These papers were found in

Captain Parker's study with other similar items, and were part of his maritime library which he bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research. Researchers should seek permission to obtain copies, and for publication of any sort.

Physical Condition

These volumes have the usual surface dirt and minor tears of late 19th-century documents. One document is fragile enough to need encapsulation. Overall, the Atlantic Coast Company papers are in good condition.

Biographical/Historical Notes

As described by James P. Stevens in *Reminiscences of a Boothbay Shipbuilder* (Boothbay Region Historical Society, 1993), Atlantic Coast Company of Boston was "organized in speculation of quick profits" during the World War I shipbuilding boom. They took over the former Townsend Marine Railway on the west side of Boothbay Harbor in 1917. The Railway "was operated at that time by Lyman McDougall and George Whitehouse who had the nearly completed four-masted schooner *Anna Laura McKenney* then under construction. Although the *McKenney* was launched after the take-over, the original firm should be credited with her building. The Atlantic Coast Co., in order to expand their operation, purchased at this time the point now [1993] occupied by the Eastern Shipbuilding Co., where from 1918 to 1921 they launched the following four-masted schooners: *Francis L. Taussig*, *Bradford E. Jones*, *Mary Bradford Pierce*, *James W. Howard* and *Josiah B. Chase*. The *Chase* is still the largest vessel built in the Boothbay area, 1661 tons and 230 feet long. After the War, the Atlantic Coast Co. used the property mainly to moor the vessels of the Crowell & Thurlow fleet. The yard was sold to F. L. Sample Jr. in 1935."

The yard is now (2016) often referred to by people in the area as "the old Sample yard."

Crowell & Thurlow owned the controlling interest in Atlantic Coast Co., and partner Lewis K. Thurlow was also treasurer of Atlantic Coast Company. Crowell & Thurlow and associates also formed the East Coast Ship Company, which purchased a different yard at Boothbay Harbor to build schooners at the same time. The Atlantic Coast Co. also acquired a yard in Thomaston to build

schooners. The activities of the three related companies overlapped and can be difficult to distinguish, as this group of papers shows.

Scope and Content Notes

The papers mostly concern details of vessel outfit and gear. The folder contains the following:

- Memorandum of Charles S. Morgan that this is the property of Captain W. J. L. Parker
- Handwritten undated list of material for medicine chest – medicines, bandages, etc.
- Bundle of lists of iron, sail dimensions, line, timber and plank for the four-mast schooner *Frances L. Taussig*, built 1918 at Boothbay Harbor by Atlantic Coast Co.
- List of paint stock for schooner *Josephine A. McQuesten*, dated Jan. 16, 1920 (this four-master was built at Rockland for Crowell & Thurlow in 1920)
- bundle of 1921 lists of rigging material needed for the five-mast schooner *Jennie Flood Kreger*, being repaired at Boothbay Harbor (built 1919 at Belfast)
- 1923 list of work to be done on unidentified wooden sailing vessel

This collection is credited to the Atlantic Coast Co., as opposed to Crowell & Thurlow or one of the other shipyards, primarily because of the Atlantic Coast Co. stationery that many of the documents are on.